



# Introduction to Architecture

Excerpts from NCARB's [Architecture Guidebook](#)

# What is Architecture?

- Architecture is the study and practice of designing buildings, communities, and structures.
- It brings together and balances both art and science. The term “architecture” could be used to describe any constructed element of an environment. Architecture is all around us!

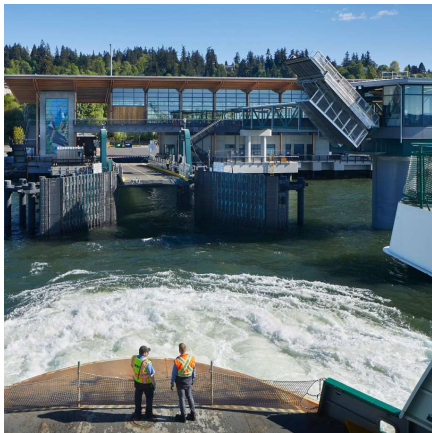


[Guide to Becoming an Architect](#)

# What does an architect do?

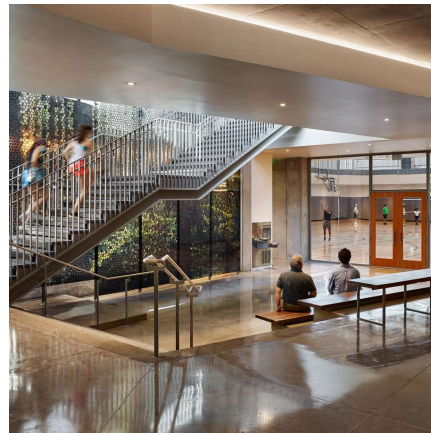
An architect is a person who designs building and other structures. Architects prepare the drawings and instructions on how they should be built.

Architects usually work for clients who hire them for a project. They are responsible for designing buildings that are safe or everyone who uses them.



**Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal**

LMN Architects



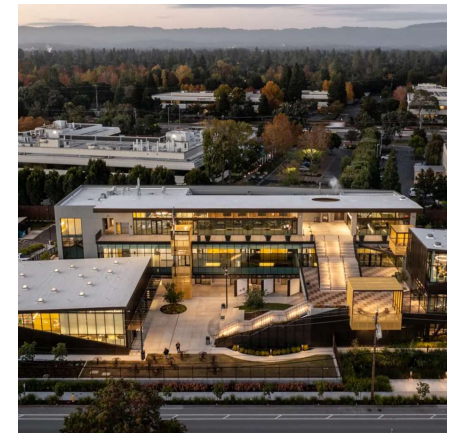
**Lubber Run Community Center**

VMDO Architects



**Worcester Blackstone Visitor Center**

designLABarchitects



**TIDE Academy**

LPA Design Studios

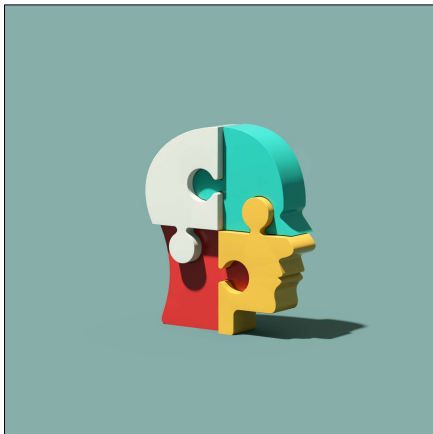
[2023 AIA Award Winners-Architecture](#)

My Inspiration (add your personal story: what's your why?)

Moments of Pride (share photos of your work and stories about your “best” day)



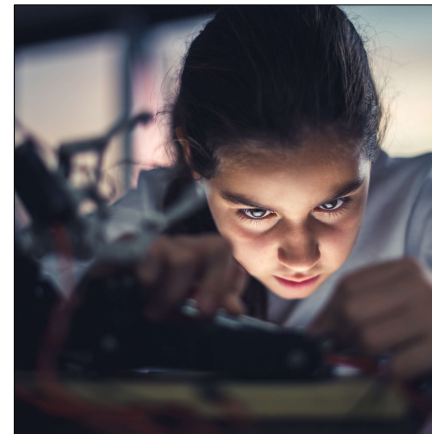
# You may want to be an architect if...



You are creative and curious. You enjoy solving puzzles and thinking about how things work.



You enjoy helping people. You are interested in learning about what they want and keep their interests in mind.



You like to learn new things even if it's hard and takes time.



You like working as part of a team. You understand the importance of each team member and how each person works to get the job done.

[Guide to Becoming an Architect](#)

# How do you become an architect?



- Most states require an architecture degree from a college/university that is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB)
- [Destination Architect](#)
- Gain experience by working for a licensed architect in a variety of areas. Keep track and report progress until you meet the required number of hours.
- Pass a national exam known as the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®). It has different parts that you can take individually but you must pass each part to get licensed.

Build Skills and Explore



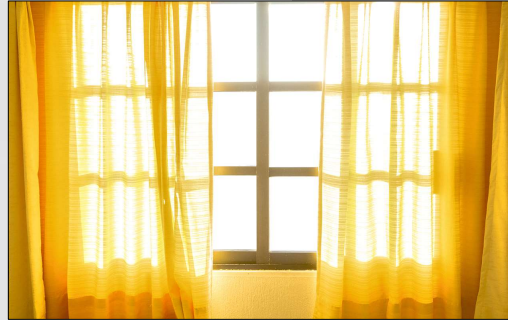
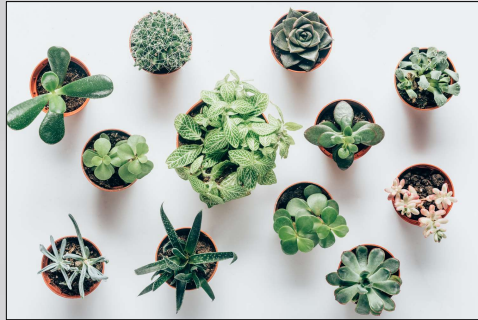
# Get Creative!

- Use LEGO bricks or other building materials in the [Climate Action Design Challenge](#).
- Play a [design challenge dice game](#) and build a structure designed for your animal.
- Complete the AIA [building certificate program](#) and learn about The House That She Built.
- Re-use items that are no longer needed (toilet paper rolls, bottles, old paper, plastic packaging) and build a tiny town or community.
- Practice sketching different size and shape buildings, write down buildings that stand out, and see if you can find out which architect designed it.

# Activity Sample

Materials: Blank piece of paper and something to write with

Fold your paper in half.  
On one side, sketch part of your  
classroom as it is.

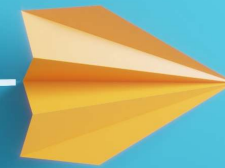


On the other side, sketch part of your classroom changing at least one thing that you think will make learning more fun.



Pair and share.

How would this make your classmates happier learners?



Explore more

# More Activity Options

- Check out the [listed activities](#) and select your favorite.
- Go to [StudyArchitecture.com](https://StudyArchitecture.com) and click “take the test.” Walk through a school search with the group.
- Ask teachers, friends, and family if they know an architect and see if they will let you do a “Shadow Day.”
- Ask students to sketch [award winning examples](#) of architecture.
- Pull up an architecture YouTube channel like [@howtoarchitect](#) and have students vote on a video to watch.



# Middle & High Schoolers:

- See if you have an active local [ACEMentor](#), [AIAS High school](#) chapter, or [Project Pipeline](#).
- Explore these Instagrams: [@aianational](#), [@architectmag](#), [@dezeen](#) and [@archdaily](#) and NCARBs [8 YouTube Channels for Architects](#).
- Go to [NCARB's website](#) and pull up the licensing requirements in your state.
- [Search](#) for art, design, STEM, or architecture contests, programs, and scholarships that you may be eligible for.

**Check out the map to see all the architecture and  
design opportunities nationwide!**  
**[www.aia.org/becomeanarchitect](http://www.aia.org/becomeanarchitect)**

**Thank you.**